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SUBJECT: BARBADOS - INFORMATION ON CHILD LABOR AND FORCED LABOR FOR
DOL CONGRESSIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

¶1. Summary: Child labor is not an issue in Barbados. Post has found no evidence of exploitative child labor or forced labor in Barbados. The constitution prohibits forced or compulsory labor, including by children, and there were no reports that such practices occurred. The law provides for a minimum working age of 16, and this provision generally was observed in practice. Compulsory primary and secondary education policies reinforced minimum age requirements. The Labor Department had a small cadre of labor inspectors who conducted spot investigations of enterprises and checked records to verify compliance with the law. These inspectors may take legal action against an employer who is found to have underage workers. According to the chief labor inspector, no underage employment cases were filed during the past few years. There were no changes to the law regarding child labor issues during the last year. End Summary.

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

¶2. The ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean conducted a rapid assessment survey of child work in Barbados in 2002 and found that children were involved in work in the services industry, vending, trades, and family-related businesses. Boys were mostly involved in construction, electrical repairs/installations, fruit vending, and horse grooming, and assisting at supermarkets. Girls worked as shop assistants and in hair styling. The working conditions for these children were characterized by long hours, irregular pay, and low remuneration. Additionally, there were reports of children involved in commercial sexual exploitation. Although there have been reports of boys and girls both being involved in sex tourism, labor ministry contacts report that there is no significant underage prostitution going on in Barbados and that Barbados does not have a significant sexual tourism problem.

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor

¶3. Percent of children 5-14 estimated as working: Unavailable

Minimum age for admission to work: 16

Age to which education is compulsory: 16

Free public education - through college: Yes

Gross primary enrollment rate: 107%

Net primary enrollment rate: 97%

Percent of children 5-14 attending school in 2001: Unavailable

In 2003, percent of primary school entrants likely to reach grade 5: 97%

Ratified Convention 138: 1/4/2003

Ratified Convention 182: 10/23/2003

ILO-IPEC participating country: Yes, associated

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

14. The minimum age for employment in Barbados is 16 years. Children under 16, however, are allowed to work under certain restrictions. Such children may not work between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m., as well as during school hours. The work of a young person between 16 and 18 is also subject to certain restrictions. Young persons may not work in industrial undertakings during the night - from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. - or participate in work that is likely to cause injury to their health, safety, or morals. For the purposes of apprenticeship or vocational training, authorization may be granted to allow young persons to work during the night. Young persons participating in an apprenticeship or vocational training must first obtain a medical certificate indicating they are fit to

be employed.

15. The law prohibits forced or compulsory labor. There are no laws that specifically address trafficking in persons, although the Young Persons Protection Act of 1918 prohibits the removal of persons under 17 from the island for the purpose of forced labor in foreign countries. Prostitution is illegal, as is the exploitation of children to use them in indecent photographs. The Child Care Board and the Labor Department are responsible for monitoring and investigating cases of child labor. The Labor Department has a small staff of labor inspectors who conduct spot investigations and verify records to ensure compliance with the law. These inspectors are authorized to take legal action against employers who are found to use underage workers. However, there have been reported cases in recent years.

16. Tasking I. Use of Forced or Child Labor

a. Type of Goods: None, no cases of such production were reported in Barbados.

b. Type of Exploitation Found in the Production of the Goods: No reported cases.

c. Sources of Information and Years: No reported cases.

d. Narrative Description: There were no reported incidents of child or forced labor in Barbados during the last calendar year.

e. Prevalence: Although child labor as defined under the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor is not occurring in Barbados according to the Labor Commissioner's office, there were

some children who were employed after school and on the weekends. Helping out in the family business or farm is quite common in Barbados. But, children attend school until age 16 and school truancy officers follow up with delinquent children to ensure that they attend school.

f. Efforts Designed to Combat Forced Labor of Adults or children in the Production of Goods: The government a few years ago had a public campaign regarding the worst forms of child labor when the government ratified the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. The campaign lasted a year and consisted of media presentations, school presentations and other public outreach efforts.

17. Tasking II.

a. Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of Exploitive Child Labor:

(1) In what sectors (not related to the production of goods) were children involved in exploitive labor? No reported cases

(2) Did the Government collect or publish data on exploitive child labor? If so, will the government provide the data set to DOL for further analysis? No reported cases.

b. Laws and Regulations:

(1) What new laws or regulations were enacted in regard to exploitive child labor over the past year? Were the changes improvements in the legal and regulatory framework? None.

(2) Is the country's legal and regulatory framework adequate for addressing exploitive child labor? Child labor cases are dealt with by the Ministry of Labor's labor inspector's office. They are prepared to deal with any such cases reported to them, but have not received any reports in the last few years.

c. Institutions and Mechanism for Enforcement:

2C, Section I: Hazardous Child Labor:

(1) What agency/agencies was/were responsible for the enforcement of laws relating to hazardous child labor? The Ministry of Labor has the prime responsibility along with the Child Welfare Board, which handles cases of suspected child abuse. But there were no reported cases.

(2) If multiple agencies were responsible for enforcement, were there mechanisms for exchanging information? Assess their effectiveness. The Ministry of Labor and the Child Welfare board would work together if they received any complaints of child labor cases. Did the country maintain a mechanism for making complaints about hazardous child labor violations? If so, how many complaints were received in the reporting period? No complaints were received.

(3) What amount of funding was provided to agencies responsible for inspections? Was this amount adequate? Did inspectors have sufficient office facilities, transportation, fuel, and other necessities to carry out inspections? Funding is adequate.

(4) How many inspectors did the government employ? Was the number of inspectors adequate? The government of Barbados has 11 labor inspectors, who cover the gamete of possible labor violations, including child labor. The number of inspectors is not adequate but the government is hiring more inspectors. The labor commissioner reported that they had not seen any child labor violations in recent years.

(5) How many inspections involving child labor were carried out? If possible, please provide breakdown of complaint-driven versus random, government-initiated inspections. Were inspections carried out in sectors in which children work? Was the number of inspections adequate? There were no inspections conducted as there were no reported cases.

(6) How many children were removed/assisted as a result of inspections? Were these children actually provided or referred for services as a result (as opposed to simply fired)? There were no inspections and no removals as a result of inspections.

(7) How many child labor cases or "prosecutions" were opened? No cases were opened.

(8) How many child labor cases were closed or resolved? No cases reported.

(9) How many violations were found or "convictions" reached? No violations were found.

(10) What is the average length of time it took to resolve child labor cases? Unclear as there have been no cases reported.

(11) In cases in which violations were found, were penalties actually applied, either through fines paid or jail sentence served? Did such sentences meet penalties established in the law? No cases were reported.

(12) Did the experience regarding questions 7 through 10 above reflect a commitment to combat exploitive child labor? Yes, the labor ministry is committed to ensuring that child labor does not become a problem.

(13) Did government offer any training for investigators or others responsible for enforcement? If so, what (if any) impact have these trainings had? ILO sub-regional office conducted child labor training a few years ago when Barbados ratified the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. The training was effective according to the labor commissioner.

2C, Section II: Forced Child Labor:

(1) What agency/agencies was/were responsible for the enforcement of laws relating to forced child labor? The Ministry of Labor would take the lead; the Child Welfare Board takes the lead on child abuse cases.

(2) If multiple agencies were responsible for enforcement, were there mechanisms for exchanging information? Assess their effectiveness. Although there were no cases reported, it appears that the Ministry of Labor is prepared to deal with Child labor cases.

(3) Did the country maintain a mechanism for making complaints about forced child labor violations? If so, how many complaints were received in the reporting period? There is no separate reporting mechanism. The Ministry takes action if they receive a complaint from the public. They did not receive any complaints in recent years.

(4) What amount of funding was provided to agencies responsible for inspections? Was this amount adequate? Did inspectors have sufficient office facilities, transportation, fuel, and other necessities to carry out inspections? Funding appears adequate.

(5) How many inspectors did the government employ? Was the number of inspectors adequate? The Ministry of Labor has 11 inspectors who cover the whole range of possible labor violations, including Child Labor. The number of inspectors is inadequate to fully inspect all potential worksites.

(6) How many inspections involving child labor were carried out? If possible, please provide breakdown of complaint-driven versus random, government-initiated inspections. Were inspections carried out in sectors in which children work? Was the number of inspections adequate? No inspections were carried out.

(7) How many children were removed/assisted as a result of inspections? Were these children actually provided or referred for services as a result (as opposed to simply fired)? No children were rescued as there were no cases opened.

(8) How many child labor cases or "prosecutions" were opened? None reported.

(9) How many child labor cases were closed or resolved? None reported.

(10) How many violations were found or "convictions" reached? No violations were reported.

(11) What is the average length of time it took to resolve child labor cases? No cases were reported.

(12) In cases in which violations were found, were penalties

actually applied, either through fines paid or jail sentence served? Did such sentences meet penalties established in the law? No cases were reported.

(13) Did the experience regarding questions 7 through 10 above reflect a commitment to combat exploitive child labor? Yes, the government seems committed to ensuring that Child Labor does not become a problem.

(14) Did government offer any training for investigators or others responsible for enforcement? If so, what (if any) impact have these trainings had? No particular training was offered, other than an ILO sponsored workshop a few years ago when Barbados signed the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

d. Institutional Mechanism for Effective Enforcement:

2D, Section I: Child Trafficking:

(1) Did the country have agencies or personnel dedicated to enforcement of child trafficking? How many investigators/social workers/dedicated police officers did the government employ to conduct investigations? If there were no dedicated agencies or personnel, provide an estimate of the number of people who were responsible for such investigations. Was the number of investigators adequate? Child trafficking is not dealt with by special inspectors or personnel. Police would take the lead in any trafficking investigation. There were no reported cases.

(2) How much funding was provided agencies responsible for investigating child trafficking? Was this amount adequate? Did investigators have sufficient office facilities, transportation, fuel, and other necessities to carry out investigations? There is no special funding for Child Trafficking. But the police appear to have sufficient funding.

(3) Did the country maintain a hotline or other mechanism for reporting child trafficking violations? If so, how many complaints were received in the reporting period? No hotline exists for child

trafficking cases.

(4) How many investigations were opened in regard to child trafficking? Was the number of investigations adequate? No inspections took place.

(5) How many children were rescued as a result? No inspections took place.

(6) How many arrests were made or other kinds of prosecutions carried out? No arrests were made.

(7) How many cases were closed or resolved? No cases were reported.

(8) How many convictions? No convictions were reported.

(9) Did sentences imposed meet standards established in the legal framework? No convictions were reported. Child trafficking is not a separate offense from trafficking in general.

(10) Were sentences imposed actually served? No arrests were made.

(11) What is the average length of time it takes to resolve cases of child trafficking? No cases were reported.

(12) Did the government offer any training for investigators or others responsible for enforcement of child trafficking? If so what was the impact (if any) of these trainings? The International Office of Migration has conducted training programs in Barbados, most recently in January, 2010. The training sensitized police and others to the possibility that trafficking could become a problem in the region.

(13) If the country experienced armed conflict during the reporting period or in the recent past involving the use of child soldiers, what actions were taken to penalize those responsible? Were these actions adequate or meaningful given the situation? There has been no armed conflict in recent decades.

2D, Section II: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC):

(1) Did the country have agencies or personnel dedicated to enforcement of CSEC? How many investigators/social workers/dedicated police officers did the government employ to conduct investigations? If there were no dedicated agencies or personnel, provide an estimate of the number of people who were responsible for such investigations. Was the number of investigators adequate? There is no special enforcement agency. Police would refer suspected cases of trafficking to the Child Welfare Board which oversees child abuse cases. There are no reports of CSEC in Barbados. There may be some isolated incidences of underage prostitution as prostitution does occur in Barbados. Many of the commercial sex workers are from other islands. There is no evidence of organized trafficking of women or children for commercial sex work.

(2) How much funding was provided agencies responsible for investigating CSEC? Was this amount adequate? Did investigators have sufficient office facilities, transportation, fuel, and other necessities to carry out investigations? No dedicated funding exists. Funding for police seems adequate.

(3) Did the country maintain a hotline or other mechanism for reporting CSEC violations? If so, how many complaints were received in the reporting period? No hotline exists.

(4) How many investigations were opened in regard to CSEC? Was the number of investigations adequate? No cases were reported.

(5) How many children were rescued as a result? No cases were reported.

(6) How many arrests were made or other kinds of prosecutions carried out? No cases were reported.

(7) How many cases were closed or resolved? No cases were reported.

(8) How many convictions? No cases were reported.

(9) Did sentences imposed meet standards established in the legal framework? No cases were reported.

(10) Were sentences imposed actually served? No cases were reported.

(11) What is the average length of time it takes to resolve cases of CSEC? No cases were reported.

(12) Did the government offer any training for investigators or others responsible for enforcement of CSEC? If so what was the impact (if any) of these trainings? IOM has offered training programs on trafficking, most recently in January, 2010. The training seems effective at raising awareness.

(13) If the country experienced armed conflict during the reporting period or in the recent past involving the use of child soldiers, what actions were taken to penalize those responsible? Were these actions adequate or meaningful given the situation? No armed conflict occurred in recent decades.

2D, Section III: Use of Children in Illicit Activities:

(1) Did the country have agencies or personnel dedicated to enforcement of the use of children in illicit activities? How many investigators/social workers/dedicated police officers did the government employ to conduct investigations? If there were no dedicated agencies or personnel, provide an estimate of the number of people who were responsible for such investigations. Was the number of investigators adequate? There is no dedicated agency devoted to such investigations. The Police would refer suspected child abuse cases to the Child Welfare Board for follow up.

(2) How much funding was provided agencies responsible for investigating the use of children in illicit activities? Was this amount adequate? Did investigators have sufficient office facilities, transportation, fuel, and other necessities to carry out investigations? There is adequate funding.

(3) Did the country maintain a hotline or other mechanism for reporting the use of children in illicit activities violations? If so, how many complaints were received in the reporting period? No

separate hotline exists.

(4) How many investigations were opened in regard to the use of children in illicit activities? Was the number of investigations adequate? No cases were reported.

(5) How many children were rescued as a result? No cases were reported.

(6) How many arrests were made or other kinds of prosecutions carried out? No cases were reported.

(7) How many cases were closed or resolved? No cases were reported. How many convictions? No cases were reported.

(8) Did sentences imposed meet standards established in the legal framework? No cases were reported.

(9) Were sentences imposed actually served? No cases were reported.

(10) What is the average length of time it takes to resolve cases of the use of children in illicit activities? No cases were reported.

(11) Did the government offer any training for investigators or others responsible for enforcement of the use of children in illicit activities? If so what was the impact (if any) of these trainings? IOM has conducted training programs, most recently in January, 2010.

(12) If the country experienced armed conflict during the reporting period or in the recent past involving the use of child soldiers, what actions were taken to penalize those responsible? Were these actions adequate or meaningful given the situation? No armed conflict during the last few decades.

e. Government Policies on Child Labor:

(1) Did the government have a policy or plan that specifically addresses exploitive child labor? Please describe. The government does not have an exploitative child labor action plan.

(2) Did the country incorporate exploitive child labor specifically as an issue to be addressed in poverty reduction, development, educational or other social policies, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, etc? Please describe. The government

does not have an exploitative child labor plan.

(3) Did the government provide funding to the plans described

above? Please describe the amount and whether it was sufficient to carry out the planned activities. No funds were dedicated to these programs.

(4) Did the government provide non-monetary support to child labor plans? Please describe. No such provisions were made.

(5) Provide any additional information about the status and effectiveness of the government's policies or plans during the reporting period in regard to exploitive child labor. The government is prepared to address the issue if it becomes a problem.

(6) Did the government participate in any commissions or task forces regarding exploitive child labor? Was the commission active and/or effective? No special task force has been set up.

(7) Did the government sign a bilateral, regional, or international agreement to combat trafficking? The Government has ratified the applicable international agreements on trafficking and the ILO convention on the worst forms of child labor.

f. Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent Child Labor:

(1) Did the government implement any programs specifically to address the worst forms of child labor? No special programs have been enacted.

(2) Did the country incorporate child labor specifically as an issue to be addressed in poverty reduction, development, educational or other social programs, such as conditional cash transfer programs or eligibility for school meals, etc? Please describe. No such programs exist.

(3) Did the government provide funding to the programs described above? If so, describe the amount and whether it was sufficient to carry out the planned activities. No such programs exist.

(4) Did the government provide non-monetary support to child labor programs? Please describe. No such programs exist.

(5) Provide any additional information about the status and effectiveness of the government's activities in relation to the programs described above and describe and assess the effectiveness of these services. No such programs exist.

(6) If the government signed one or more bilateral, regional or international agreements to combat trafficking, what steps did it take to implement such agreements? Did the agreements result in tangible improvements? If so, please describe. The government has signed the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor and has taken steps to ensure that it is compliance.

g. Continual Progress:

Barbados does not have a child labor problem but is committed to ensuring that exploitative child labor does not take root in Barbados. The government is justly proud of its near 100 percent school attendance record.

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